

Assignment TV

By TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

Yesterday, as I was thumbing through the morning paper and lazily humming the theme song for Dial soap, I came across a story about Governor Reagan picking his emergency civilian successors should he and his constitutional replacements in Sacramento be killed in an atomic attack.

The third in line of succession — following a newspaper publisher and an oilman — is Y. Frank Freeman, who is listed as the head of Paramount Studios. I stopped humming immediately while my mind grappled with the image of Governor Y. Frank Freeman in Sacramento sitting in front of the new State Crest — Paramount's serene, snow-capped mountain encircled by clouds and showered with stars.

Assuming that we have survived the atomic attack as well as administrations by a publisher and an oil executive — which is doubtful — California would be ready for almost anything. Surely Paramount would be no stranger to the viewing public, having been softened up by the likes of "Bonanza," "Get Smart" and "T.H.E. Cat." Any studio that can spawn a bawling all-American family like the Cartwrights can't be all bad.

MY PERSONAL association with future Governor Freeman has been limited to the Paramount Commissary, where little squares of corn bread are on the tables in baskets. It is still officially called Y. Frank Freeman Bread, even though he is no longer business head of the studio but now lives in Beverly Hills, where all movie people go when they retire.

Y. (for Young) Frank is now pushing 70 and it is amusing to recall that two decades ago he criticized Eddie Bracken for appearing at a Madison Square Garden political rally. "Motion picture people should stay out of politics," he said.

FREEMAN IS A Southern Bring on the Bomb!

Democrat with a unique drawl that smoothed the way through 30 years of studio politics, largely because no one above the rank of vice president spoke anything but New York-ese. Although he was at Paramount during the thirties, when it was saved from bankruptcy by sex (Mae West, singlehandedly, lifted the mortgage), the Sacramento administration of our future governor would not likely be a Bacchanal. Indeed Bacchus would not be allowed within the Sacramento city limits unless he was disguised as a Southern Democrat. Freeman is vehemently against alcohol. Some of the classic run-ins with stars like William Holden who had the only dressing room on the lot with a bar — made possible solely through the courtesy of a large box office following.

The clouds around the mountain on the new State Seal are definitely not from cigarette smoke. Freeman doesn't care too much for that either. I am told by spies of mine who had to remain nicotine-free in his presence.

HE WAS HEAD of the studio during the golden days of Marlene Dietrich and the Bob Hope-Bing Crosby movies. One of the films he took a personal interest in was "Aaron Slick from Pumpkin Crick" starring Dinah Shore, one of the major flops of 1952 and the movie that drove her into television. Many of his old films would no doubt rise to haunt him during his administration. Paramount is offering them to television for an estimated \$25 million.

Yet we could probably do a lot worse than Young Frank because somewhere under the Southernness there is great fortitude. There's got to be. He was one of the few Hollywood executives who ever told off Hedda Hopper when she was wrong and made her apologize. I figure anyone who has that on his record is a True Leader of Us All.



ON THE LINE . . . Picketers at the White Front Store in Torrance show up in force early Tuesday morning on the first day of Retail Clerks Union Local 905's strike for a new contract. About 50 union workers picketed under union leadership during the day.

County Gets \$3 Million For Streets

Capital News Service SACRAMENTO — Los Angeles County's share of highway user taxes distributed during June was \$3,086,213, State Controller Houston I. Flournoy reported today.

Total distribution for the month was \$45,396,244, of which \$23,955,495 went to the state highway fund for expenditure on state highways; \$9,571,561 directly to the counties; \$6,125,799 to the state highway fund for use on the select system of county roads and city streets; and \$5,743,389 to the state highway fund for cities.

The total was derived from the following sources: gasoline tax, \$41,231,136; diesel fuel tax, \$3,298,203; by transfer from the motor vehicle transportation tax fund; and the balance from miscellaneous sources.

Husband, Wife Go To Alaska

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy J. Morrison, of 17011 S. Yukon Ave., will spend the coming year in a small Alaskan village as VISTA volunteers.

More than 100 VISTA volunteers are now living in Alaska, many in isolated Eskimo and Indian villages where "outsiders" have never before been admitted.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Morrison attended San Jose State College. Morrison holds a degree in social science. The couple has worked for the San Jose Recreation Department and with Amigos Anonymous, a Berkeley, Calif., community development program.

Mrs. Morrison is the former Lynn Nyburg of San Jose. Morrison's father, George A. Morrison, lives at 17011 S. Yukon Ave.

To Get Awards

Special awards will be presented Sunday afternoon, Aug. 13, to 280 boys who participated in the Normandale Recreation Center's summer baseball program.

The afternoon's activity will also include a special baseball game between the coaches of participating teams and it is slated to get underway at 3:30 p.m.

Children a Factor In Traffic Crashes

Pedestrians, particularly children under age 11, continued to be one of the major causes of traffic accidents in Los Angeles County in 1966, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chase.

Chase, chairman of the County Road Department, this week released the annual traffic accident summary for 1966. The report condenses and analyzes accidents in unincorporated areas and in 24 contract cities.

Lomita and Rolling Hills Estates are two of the cities included in the report.

DURING 1966, Lomita reported 151 accidents, an increase of 70 per cent over 1965. Rolling Hills Estates reported 74 accidents, up 19 per cent over the previous year.

"While pedestrians are not the leading cause of accidents, the total involving them soared above 1,000 last year," Chase said, "and 49 per cent of all pedestrian-related accidents involved children under age 11."

Chase pointed out that more than half of the mishaps involving youngsters were caused by children running into the streets.

"In this period when the safety of the automobile is of major concern, it is discouraging to note the heavy increase in the number of youngsters hurt and killed in our streets," he said.

ACCORDING to the report, there were 14,856 accidents in unincorporated areas and 5,324 in the 24 contract cities in 1966.

The most frequent type of accident involved vehicles hitting parked cars, a mishap which was blamed for 18.9 per cent of all the accidents surveyed. Other causes and percentages:

- Rear end collisions, 17.4;
- cars running off road, 17.0;
- right angle collisions at intersections, 16.2;
- left turn crashes, 8.4;
- driveway accidents, 6.0;
- pedestrians, 5.1;
- miscellaneous, 4.1;
- head-on crashes, 3.7;
- sideswipes, 2.5;
- and passing while turning, 0.7.

OTHER FIGURES in the report indicated that:

• Of the drivers involved in accidents, 11.2 per cent had been drinking, 7.1 per cent were drunk, and 1.8 per cent were in otherwise abnormal conditions.

• More than 55 per cent of the mishaps involved property damage only and only 0.9 per cent were fatal.

• Weather conditions were normal when 93.3 per cent of the accidents occurred.

• More than 55 per cent happened in the daylight hours.

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Delegates To Attend Conference

George Charland and Paul Galvan have been named to represent the El Camino College Chapter 453 of the California School Employees Association at the group's annual convention.

The meeting, which began yesterday and ends Friday, is being held in Los Angeles.

More than 850 delegates from chapters throughout the state are expected to participate in the four-day event, according to Roy Avery, El Camino Chapter president.

ENTERS HOSPITAL
Glenna Kroll, 10-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Kroll of 19503 Beckworth Ave., have been admitted to Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital.

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